

TWO NEW SPECIES OF MEXICAN TINEIDS.

BY AUGUST BUSCK.

Ethmia mulleri, new species.

Labial palpi and face blackish fuscous. Tongue ochre-yellow. Antennæ blackish, basally with white annulations. Head white. Thorax white with posterior tip black. Fore wings pure white with a costal longitudinal streak from base to apex dark slate-colored; at the extreme base of the dorsal edge is a deep black round dot and on the wing are six similar black round dots, placed in pairs in two longitudinal rows of three dots each; the first pair at basal fourth, with the upper dot slightly nearer the base of the wing than the lower dot; one pair on the middle of the cell and one pair just beyond the end of the cell; in both these latter pairs the upper dot is placed obliquely to and further out than the lower. Along the terminal edge is a row of six black marginal dots. Cilia white. Hindwings light slate-colored with white cilia and in the male with a strong yellow hair pencil at the base of the costa. Abdomen dark fuscous with second joint above and terminal joint ocher-yellow. Legs dark slate-colored with yellow tarsal annulations.

Alar expanse, 21-22 mm.

Habitat—Tehuacan, Mexico, July, September (R. Müller).

Type—No. 12810, U. S. National Museum. Cotype in Muscum Walsingham.

A clear-cut species, nearest in color and size to the European *Ethmia sexpunctella* but with the six spots placed differently and further distinguished by the male costal tuft. In the American series it comes next to *Ethmia hagenella* Chambers.

It gives me pleasure to name this pretty species in honor of the collector, Mr. R. Müller, who has added very many Mexican Lepidoptera to our collections.

Stenoma loxotoma, new species.

Labial palpi long, evenly covered, reaching above the vertex; second joint thickened with appressed scales, slightly ruffled anteriorly towards apex; ocher-yellow at base, blackish above, whitish gray at the tip; terminal joint smooth pointed, whitish gray shaded to blackish fuscous anteriorly. Antennæ, male, shortly ciliated (1) gray with indistinct darker annulations; basal joint thickened with scales. Face whitish. Top of head tufted, the long scales from each side meeting in the middle; whitish gray on the sides, darker gray at tip of tuft.

Thorax dark gray with a long slender appressed tuft of black hairlike scales reaching back over the first abdominal segment. Forewings with costa straight to apical third, there sharply deflexed, apex bluntly pointed, termen rounded, dorsal edge straight; color brownish gray with narrow ochreous edges and with three transverse, oblique, nearly parallel, narrow lines; the first from basal fourth of costa somewhat undulated to apical third of dorsal edge; the second also somewhat curved from about the middle of costa to just above the anal angle and the third, which is nearly straight from just before the deflexion of the costal edge to the middle of termen. Cilia short, dark fuscous. Hind wings over 1, triangular with rounded apex and anal angle bright ochre-yellow. Underside of all wings bright ochre-yellow. Legs ochre-yellow; first pair with the anterior side of the tarsi gray and heavily scaled as in some noctuids; posterior tibiæ with long smoothly appressed hairs above; the first tarsal joints similarly thickened with shorter hair. Abdomen ochre-yellow with rich chestnut-brown bars above, one on each joint.

Alar expanse, 43-50 mm.

Habitat—Orizaba, Mexico, June (R. Müller, coll.); Vera Cruz, Mexico (H. Schwarz, coll.).

Type—No. 12809, U. S. National Museum. Cotype in Museum Walsingham.

This species would, on account of the striking wing form and the peculiarly thickened front tarsi, fall in Zeller's genus *Loxotoma*, which I, however, am unable to consider a good genus. The family Stenomidæ, which is a primitive family from which the family Oecophoridæ has probably developed, exhibits a very wide range of specific specialization, but has differentiated itself into very few tenable genera. The transition of the various forms of the wings and of the numerous secondary sexual characters, tufts and fringes, exhibited in this family, is so gradual as to defy generic division, while the venation is remarkably uniform throughout the family. It seems at the first study impossible to place a species like the present or the similarly shaped type of the genus *Loxotoma* (*elegans* Zeller) in the same genus with the superficially very different typical *Stenoma* species; but if the recognized generic characters are compared one by one, they will be found to be identical and the present species is, for example, undoubtedly quite as close to *Stenoma tristrigata* Zeller as to *Loxotoma elegans* Zeller, though the former could not be placed in Zeller's genus *Loxotoma*.